

New Council Helps Employees Get Grounded

Human Resources Specialist Jason Williams started the CEP Council in March to assist Career Entry Program participants, promote the program's visibility, provide networking opportunities and encourage professional development for Civil Service employees, especially current and former CEP professionals.

The Career Entry Program is a two-year federal intern program designed to encourage qualified individuals to undertake Department of State careers and foster their professional development. Upon successful completion of the program, interns may be converted to career-conditional Civil Service appointments.

The program aims to provide participants with needed job skills and work experience through training courses and job rotations, which may be with other bureaus, within the same bureau or at overseas posts. Program coordinators help participants meet their requirements.

Although the CEP affords unique and exciting opportunities, it can present challenges for those new to working in the federal government. Williams, the CEP Council's chair, said he wanted the council "to create social networking functions so members can interact and share information, ideas and experiences."



CEP Council members include (rear from left) Jason Williams, Jacob Vellaccio and Jason Tolub. At front from left are Lana Chung, Jane Daly and Rebecca Packer.

Council Vice Chair of Development Jason Tolub aims to establish a CEP mentoring program, produce an informational booklet for new participants and promote CEP awareness. Vice Chair of Networking Margaux Herring creates group-cohesion events, such as the June volunteer activity at the Foggy Bottom Food Pantry where several CEP participants spent a Saturday morning filling bags of groceries for the needy. Vice Chair of Alumni Relations Jane Daly reaches out to former CEP participants for knowledge and insight. Vice Chair of Communications Jacob Vellaccio and his assistant Rebecca Packer help maintain the CEP Council's SharePoint site and other forms of communication.

Williams said CEP Council membership is open to all Department Civil Service employees, and the organization welcomes new members.

Renovated Marshall Center Reopens in Paris

The George C. Marshall Center in the Hôtel de Talleyrand in Paris reopened in May at a gala event featuring U.S. Ambassador to France Charles H. Rivkin, Under Secretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy and Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Spencer Boyer.

They hosted 17 ambassadors from the countries that participated in the Marshall Plan, as well as donors, artisans who restored the center and scholars and film researchers

studying the Marshall Plan, the international effort to rebuild Europe in the wake of World War II. The center symbolizes international cooperation and highlights European and American political, economic and social history.

What is now the Hôtel de Talleyrand was built in 1767

as the private residence of an advisor to Louis XV. It later became the home of Napoleon's foreign minister and passed into the hands of the Rothschild family, which rented it in 1948 to the State Department for use as the Marshall Plan's headquarters.

The Department purchased the building in the 1950s, and in 1981 committed to its support and preservation. The building's facade and windows were restored by the mid 1990s, and in 1999 the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' Cultural Heritage Program, under

the direction of Vivien Woofert, began raising funds to restore its interior.

The 10-year restoration effort consisted of research and painstaking work to bring the center's 10 rooms back to their original appearance. The restoration was done by 150 French artisans guided by specialists in historic décor and using expertise and craftsmanship from both sides of the Atlantic. More than 100 U.S. and French donors covered the \$5 million cost with private funding.

The Marshall Center will have a permanent exhibit on the Marshall Plan and is expected to become a meeting location for international scholars, artists and government and business leaders.



France

